

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A nonwoven fabric-laminate comprising:

(A) a rigid layer of an entanglement-based nonwoven fabric; and

(B) a bulky layer of a bulky nonwoven fabric having an apparent density lower than that of said rigid layer,

wherein

(i) the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric comprises a merely-entangled nonwoven fabric fused with thermally-fusible fibers,

(ii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is not less than 150 N/50 mm width,

(iii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric is higher than that of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric; and

(iv) the thickness of the rigid layer is 0.6 to 2 mm.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein an apparent density of said rigid layer is less than 0.15 g/cm³.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 mm ~~or more~~ to 2 mm.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein a difference between the apparent density of said rigid layer and the apparent density of said bulky layer is not more than 0.14 g/cm^3 .

Claim 5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said bulky layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said bulky nonwoven fabric in said bulky layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said rigid layer and/or said bulky layer contain profile fibers and/or hollow fibers.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein substantially all constituent fibers of said rigid layer are polyester fibers, and substantially all constituent fibers of said bulky layer are polyester fibers.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, further comprising a laminated surface layer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1 is shaped.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said rigid layer is 0.6 to 1 mm.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein an apparent density of said rigid layer is less than 0.15 g/cm^3 .

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 mm ~~or more~~ to 1 mm.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein a difference between the apparent density of said rigid layer and the apparent density of said bulky layer is not more than 0.14 g/cm^3 .

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein said bulky layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said bulky nonwoven fabric in said bulky layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein said rigid layer and/or said bulky layer contain profile fibers and/or hollow fibers.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein substantially all constituent fibers of said rigid layer are polyester fibers, and substantially all constituent fibers of said bulky layer are polyester fibers.

